

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 SAM-01 SCCT-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01 IO-13 /071 W
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O R 151628Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8661

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4635

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLO SY

SUBJ: KHADDAM AND HAYDAR COMMENT ON ARAFAT VISIT TO DAMASCUS

1. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS JULY 15, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
HAYDAR AND FONMIN KHADDAM TOLD US THAT THEY EXPECT JALLUD
TO BRING ARAFAT TO DAMASCUS TOMORROW.

2. ACCORDING HAYDAR, ASAD HAD NOT WANTED TO RECEIVE ARAFAT
BUT HAD AGREED GRUDGINGLY AFTER HAYDAR AND OTHER
ADVISORS POINTED OUT THE DESIRABILITY OF DOING SO IN VIEW
OF THE ARAB LEAGUE DECISION URGING SYRO-PALESTINIAN
RECONCILIATION.

3. ASAD FEELS PARTICULARLY BITTER THAT THE PALESTINIANS,
LED BY ARAFAT, SHOULD HAVE VILIFIED HIM PERSONALLY
AFTER ALL THE TIME AND ENERGY HE HAS INVESTED IN EXPLAINING
SYRIA'S POSITION TO THE PLO AND IN WORKING FOR RECON-
CILIATION BETWEEN THE LEBANESE AND THE PALESTINIANS.

4. KHADDAM SAID GRUMPILY THAT THE VISIT ITSELF WAS
UNIMPORTANT. WHAT MATTERED WAS PUTTING AN END TO THE FIGHTING
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IN LEBANON AND BRINGING THE PALESTINIANS TO ACCEPT NON-

INTERFERENCE IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION
OF THEIR COMMITMENTS TO LEBANON UNDER THE CAIRO AGREEMENT.

5. I OBSERVED THAT PLO REPRESENTATIVE RIBHI AWAD AND
MAJID SHARRARA HAD PUBLICLY STATED IN CAIRO THAT PLO
WAS READY TO ACCEPT THE CAIRO ACCORD. KHADDAM REPLIED
THAT THEY HAD SAID PRECISELY THE OPPOSITE IN PRIVATE.
PROBLEM WITH THE PLO, HE ADDED SOURLY, WAS GETTING IT TO
IMPLEMENT ITS PROMISES. SYRIA WAS DETERMINED TO HAVE THE
CAIRO ACCORD IMPLEMENTED AND SAW THIS AS IN THE INTEREST
OF BOTH THE LEBANESE AND THE PLO.

MURPHY

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